[English]

Telecast of T.V. Serials on Culture

2834. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some new T.V. Serials on Culture have been telecast by Doordarshan during last week of November, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether T.V. Serials on Culture will depict cultural heritage of all communities of the country turn by turn; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (d). Yes Sir. Sir. Doordarshan have started the telecast of a weekly cultural magazine programme titled 'Tana Bana' which would highlight the cultural heritage of different parts of the country.

[Translation]

Newsitem Capitioned "Dollar and Pound Videshi Filmone Ke Jariye"

2835. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item appearing in "Jansatta" dated November 22, 1991 under the caption, "Dollar and Pound Videshi Filmone Ke Jariye";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the names of the films and foreign countries through which there is a likelihood of inflow of Dollars and Pounds in the country during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the amount likely to be released in Dollars and Pounds therefrom; and

(e) the details of future plans in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government's policy, in general, is to encourage shooting of films in India by foreigners.

Though permission has been granted to four foreign companies (since April 91 - till date) to shoot feature films in India it is difficult to asses how many of these would actually be shot during the current financial year as there is always a time lag between obtaining of permission and actual location shooting. Hence it is also not possible to estimate the inflow of foreign exchange during to these shootings.

(e) There is a settled procedure for according permission to foreign producers to shoot feature films in India which is being and will continue to be followed.

[English]

Conversion of Telephone Exchenges into Electronic Exchanges in Country

2836. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manual telephone exchanges proposed to be upgraded to electronic exchanges in the country, this year;

(b) the number of electronic exchanges sanctioned and are awaiting commissioning for want of either buildings or equipment, the details therof, category-wise; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to start commissiong of these electronic exchanges?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 664 numbers.

(b) and (c). (i) Out of 664 sanctioned exchanges, 87 have already been upgraded to electronic exchanges during April to November 1991.

(ii) 525 nos. have been planned to be upgraded to electronic telephone exchanges during remaining period of the current financial year.

(iii) Remaining 52 nos are to await commissioning for want of both equipments and buildings. The commissioning of these exchanges is planned to be started during 1992-93.

Composition of Anti-Riot Force

2837. SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Antiriot force; and

(b) if so, the composition of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The question of setting up of a Force to deal with riots and riot-like situations is under consideration.

Complaint about Telephones Under Dibrugarh Telephone Exchange

2838. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Area Manager, Telecom, Dibrugarh has received in August/ September, 1991 any specific complaint about serious irregularities pertaining to telephones working from Dibrugarh Telephone Exchange;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Any specific complaint received is attended to promptly.

[*Translation*]

Celebration of Martyroom Day of Abdul Hamid as 'Shaheed Divas'

2839. SHRI VIAHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Abdul Hamid Memorial Society has sent a proposal to the Government to make arrangements for